Cellular Phone Facilities in Rajasthan and Orissa

2480. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any concrete plan to introduce more Cellular telephone in rural and semi-urban areas of the country particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) what policy is laid down in respect thereof in the Revised National Telecom Policy, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Government have granted licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), for Metro City Service Areas and Telecom Circle Service Areas, to private operators as well as to the public sector operators, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), as per details in the Statement (*See* below). Further process has been started for inducting one more private operator of CMTS in most of the Service Areas after obtaining recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this behalf as envisaged in the New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99). After the introduction of additional operator, there will be three private operators and one Government Operator in most of the Service Areas in the country.

The terms and conditions of the Licences, *inter-alia*, provide that atleast 10 per cent of the District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50 per cent of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of License. The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District *in lieu* of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters / town to be covered and further expansion beyond 50 per cent District Headquarters / towns lies with the Licensee companies depending on the business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas as per the licenses granted. With multiple operations in each Service Area, it is expected that all the Licensees will cover more and more areas including semi-urban and rural areas.

BSNL have been given CMTS Licences covering the entire country including Rajasthan and Orissa except for Delhi and Mumbai Metro City Service Areas. It has proposed to cover all the District Headquarters important Pilgrimage Centres, Major Highways and Railways Routes throughout the country wherever permitted. Rural and Semi-urban areas falling within the signal coverage shall also get the benefit of Cellular Mobile Services.

(d) The NTP-99 which has been adopted by the Goverment effective from 1st April, 1999, *inter-alia* envisages that entry of more operators (of CMTS) in a service area shall be based on the recommendations TRAI who will review this as required and not later than every two years.

Statement

Service area-wise list of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Provides

S. No.	Service Area (Metro City / Telecom Circle)	Name of Operator
1.	Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd. Sterling Cellular Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
2.	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd. Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
3.	Kolkata	Spice Cell Ltd. Usha Maartin Telekom Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
4.	Chennai	RPG Cellular Services Ltd. Skycell Communications (P) Ltd. Bharat Snachar Nigam Limited
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Tata Cellular Ltd. Bharti Mobile Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

S. No.	Service Area (Metro City / Telecom Circle)	Name of Operator
6.	Assam	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
7.	Bihar	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.* Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
8.	Gujarat	Fascel Ltd. Birla AT&T Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
9.	Haryana	Escotel Mobile Communication (P) Ltd. Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd. Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
11.	Karnataka	Bharti Mobile Ltd. Spice Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
12.	Kerala	Escotel Mobile Communications (P) Ltd. BPL Cellular Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
13.	Maharashtra	BPL Cellular Ltd. Birla AT&T Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
14.	Madhya Pradesh	RPG Cellcom Ltd. Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
15.	North-East	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Hexacom India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

S. No.	Service Area (Metro City / Telecom Circle)	Name of Operator
16.	Orissa	Koshika Telecom (P) Ltd.* Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
17.	Punjab	Spice Communications Ltd. Bharti Mobile Ltd.* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
18.	Rajasthan	Aircel Digilink India Ltd Hexacom India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
19.	Tamilnadu	BPL Cellular Ltd. Aircel Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
20.	UP(W)	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
21.	UP(E)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
22.	West Bengal	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

Legend: *These licences stand terminated for default in payment of licence fee dues.

NOTE : Expansion or fresh start of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is not permitted at present by Private Operators as well as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in J & K, North-East and Assam Telecom Circles on security consideration.

Delay in shifting of telephones in Karol Bagh Exchange

2481. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of application forms for shifting of telephone received in the month of May and June, 2001 in Karol Bagh Exchange of MTNL, Delhi;

(b) the details of the telephone connections shifted and pending out of the applications mentioned in Part(a) above;